

# To All Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan

English (英語)
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Beginning July 9, 2012:

A Resident Card will be issued with the introduction of a new residency management system. The Alien Registration System will be abolished.

## Issue of Resident Card

- Who this applies to: A Resident Card will be issued to persons residing in Japan who have been granted a status of residence with a period of stay of more than three months.
  - A Resident Card will not be issued to persons with Temporary Visitor status or persons with Diplomat or Official status.
  - For special permanent residents, a Special Permanent Resident Certificate will be issued instead of a Resident Card.
- Information shown: In addition to a picture (face only), information such as name, nationality/region, date of birth, sex, status of residence, period of stay, and working permits will be shown on the card.

- Valid Period :

	16 years or older	Under 16 years old
Permanent residents	Seven years from the date of issue	Until the individual's 16 <sup>th</sup> birthday
Persons other than permanent residents	Until the expiration date of the period of stay	Until the expiration date of the period of stay or the individual's 16 <sup>th</sup> birthday, whichever comes first

- Place of Issue:
  - Regional Immigration Offices: Starting July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012, a Resident Card will be issued at Narita, Haneda, Chubu and Kansai airports to those entering Japan with a mid- to long-term resident status. However, for those entering via all other ports of entry and departure, a Resident Card will be mailed by Simplified Registered Mail to the individual's reported place of residence submitted to municipal offices upon entry. For further information, please contact a Regional Immigration Bureau, District Immigration Office or Branch Office.
- By what date must the Alien Registration Certificate be changed to the Resident Card?
  - For a certain period, until the new Resident Card is issued, an Alien Registration Certificate will be deemed equivalent to a Resident Card for the purpose of residence notification or procedures at Regional Immigration Offices. It is not necessary to immediately exchange your Alien Registration Certificate for a Resident Card.
  - A new Resident Card will be issued at a Regional Immigration Office when permission to extend period of stay, etc., is granted.
  - Permanent residents aged 16 or older are required to change to the Resident Card no later

than July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015\*, whereas permanent residents under 16 years of age must do so by July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 or their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, whichever comes first. \*Note: Residents with the status of Designated Activities with a period of stay of four years or five years are also required to change to the Resident Card no later than July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

- What will be more convenient?
    - Those departing Japan with a passport and Resident Card who plan to re-enter Japan within one year and before the expiration of their period of stay\*, will, in principle, not be required to apply for a Re-entry Permit. This is called the Special Re-entry Permit system. However, residents who fail to re-enter Japan within the valid period will lose their resident status. Furthermore, please note that the period of validity of a Special Re-entry Permit cannot be extended while abroad.
- \*Note: In the case of special permanent residents, the Special Re-entry Permit is applicable for those planning to return to Japan within two years.

### Certificates of Residence

Foreign residents who are eligible to receive a Resident Card or Special Permanent Resident Certificate will have a Certificate of Residence made for them at the local municipality in which they reside, just as is done for Japanese nationals.

- Items shown:
 

Certificates of Residence for foreign residents will show name, date of birth, sex and address, as well as items unique to foreign nationals, such as nationality/region, status of residence, and period of stay.
- Issue of copies of a Certificate of Residence
 

Foreign nationals will also be able to obtain a copy of their Certificate of Residence or a Certificate of Items Stated in Resident Register at the counter of their local municipal office, the same as Japanese nationals.

\*For further information regarding the Basic Resident Registration System, please consult the following link provided by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications:  
[http://www.soumu.go.jp/main\\_sosiki/jichi\\_gyousei/c-gyousei/zairyu.html](http://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/jichi_gyousei/c-gyousei/zairyu.html)

### Notification or application procedures will be necessary in the following cases:

Situation	Where to go
1.) When deciding on a new address, or when changing addresses Moving-in Notification*, Change of Address Notification*, Moving-out Notification** * Please bring your Resident Card or Special Permanent Resident Certificate (or your Alien Registration Certificate). **When changing to an address in a different municipality, you are required to submit in advance a moving-out notification to the municipality you will be leaving.	Local municipalities
2.) When changing name, nationality/ region, etc.	Regional Immigration

3.) When you have lost your Resident Card or it has become damaged beyond use.	Offices
4.) Permanent Residents and those under the age of 16: • When the period of validity of your Resident Card is due to expire	
5.) Those with employment status (with some exceptions), Students and Trainees: • When your affiliated organization such as employer or educational institution changes its name or location, or in the case of bankruptcy of a company, or in the case of termination of an employment contract, or in the case of transfer due to a new employment contract.	Bring a notification form to a Regional Immigration Office in person or send by post to the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau
6.) Those with the status of: Dependent (as spouse), Designated Activities (C), Spouse or Child of Japanese National, or Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident: • In the case of divorce or death of spouse	

**Non-Japanese Language Inquiries: For further information, please contact the offices below.**

<p>➤ <b>Immigration Information Center</b>  Mon. thru Fri.: 8:30-17:15  TEL: 0570-013904 (IP Phone, PHS, International Call: 03-5796-7112)</p>	<p>Languages available:  English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish and Portuguese</p>
<p>➤ <b>One-Stop Consultation Support Centers</b>  Mon. thru Fri.: 9:00-16:00  Consultation Support Center for Foreign Residents (Shinjuku): 03-3202-5535  Saitama Information &amp; Support: 048-833-3296  Hamamatsu Multicultural Center, One-Stop Consultation Corner: 053-458-1510  Web: <a href="http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/info/index.html">http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/info/index.html</a></p>	<p>For inquiries by telephone or in person, services are available in languages other than Japanese. Languages available differ depending on the day of the week, so please make sure to check the website.</p> <p><u>Shinjuku</u>: English, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese, Bengali, Vietnamese, Indonesian  <u>Saitama</u>: English, Portuguese, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, Thai, Vietnamese  <u>Hamamatsu</u>: English, Portuguese, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog</p>

Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice: Regarding the new residency management system  
[http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact\\_1/index.html](http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact_1/index.html)

\*English, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Korean, Spanish and Portuguese versions are available.

Translation: Tokyo University of Foreign Studies